

into operation after a predetermined operating time has elapsed with respect to the particular plate.

42. The grinding machine of claim 37 further comprising a lock nut downstream of the blade in the direction of material flow, wherein the safety device is integrated into the lock nut.

43. A plate perforated by holes, each hole having a hole diameter less than or equal to 6 millimeters, the plate further comprising a means on which data can be stored and retrieved that permit unequivocal identification of the plate.

44. The plate of claim 43 wherein the data contain information concerning the size of the holes.

45. The plate of claim 43 wherein the data contain information concerning the thickness of the plate.

46. The plate of claim 43 wherein operating time data and operating stress data of the plate can be stored on the means and retrieved.

47. The plate of claim 46 in combination with means interpreting the stored operating time data and the stored operating stress data to infer wear of the plate.

48. The plate of claim 43 wherein the means is provided in a sealed cavity.

49. The plate of claim 43 wherein the means is linked to a transmitter and receiver system in bi-directional fashion.

50. The plate of claim 43 wherein the means is a sensor chip.

51. A plurality of plates each perforated by holes, each hole having a hole diameter less than or

equal to 6 millimeters, each plate further comprising a respective means on which identification data can be stored and retrieved that permit identification of the plate, each plate having unique identification data with respect to the others of the plates.

52. The plates of claim 51 wherein the data for each plate contain information concerning the size of the holes for the plate.

53. The plates of claim 51 wherein the data for each plate contain information concerning the thickness of the plate.

54. The plates of claim 51 wherein operating time data and operating stress data of each plate can be stored on the respective means and retrieved.

55. The plates of claim 54, each plate in combination with respective means interpreting the stored operating time data and the stored operating stress data to infer wear of the plate.

56. The plates of claim 51 wherein each means is provided in a sealed cavity.

57. The plates of claim 51 wherein each means is linked to a transmitter and receiver system in bi-directional fashion.

58. The plates of claim 51 wherein each means is a sensor chip.

59. A grinding machine having a downstream direction of material flow along a path, the machine comprising a plate disposed within the path, the plate perforated by holes, each hole having a hole diameter less than or equal to 6 millimeters, the plate further comprising a means on which data can be stored and retrieved that permit unequivocal identification of the plate.

60. The grinding machine of claim 59 comprising at least a last blade in the direction of material